

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-17 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Claim 8 is sought to be cancelled. Claims 11-17 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Support for new claims 11-17 is found throughout the specification and in the originally filed claims.

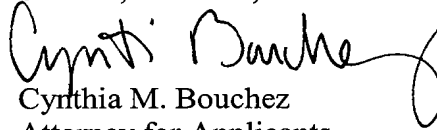
The claims were originally in the German language. The claims were translated into the English language and filed with this National Phase application. The claims have been amended merely to place them into conformity with U.S. patent claim practice.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Cynthia M. Bouchez
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 47,438

Date: May 14, 2007
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600